

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 4, as follows:

The present invention relates to a process for imparting and ~~enhancing~~~~enhancement of~~ colours in gemstone minerals and to gemstone minerals obtained thereby. In particular the present invention relates to a process for imparting colours to colourless gemstones and ~~enhancing~~~~enhancement of~~ colour of paler gemstones and to coloured gemstones manufactured thereby. Even more particularly, the present invention relates to an environmentally friendly process for inducing colours and for enhancing the properties of gemstone minerals and to novel coloured gemstones obtained thereby.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 1, line 28, as follows:

Besides its visual beauty, a gemstone for ornamental purposes has to possess a certain amount of durability to be classified as precious, since it should be displayable by the owner without fear of deterioration or tarnish. Gemstones of the requisite hardness to qualify as durable include gem varieties derived from corundum (e.g., ruby, and sapphire) and from carbon (e.g., diamond). Such gemstones typically not only ~~outlast~~~~outlive~~ their wearers but also sparkle with undiminished luster long after their metal setting has been abraded or eroded.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 2, line 10, as follows:

Various attempts have been made to produce jewellery items of inexpensive materials with the appearance of expensive materials. For example, U.S. Pat. No.

1,005,564 describes a technique of employing coloured sheets of celluloid to form various shapes to represent various natural materials and gems, such as coral, turquoise and the like. U.S. Pat. No. 4,295,347 describes other techniques employing lacquers on a substrate in order to simulate the appearance of a gem. U.S. Pat. No. 4,835,023 describes the use of various coatings on cultured pearls in order to improve the quality of the pearls. However, ~~to~~until date, the techniques employed to process an inexpensive material to give the appearance of an expensive material have been cumbersome, and, in some cases, have not achieved the desired result.

Please amend the paragraph beginning at page 8, line 18, as follows:

Coating of a ~~thin/thick~~ film of varying thickness, of a particular material, or multiple films of different materials on polished gemstones/minerals to impart colour in colourless stones and to enhance the colour in paler stones.